

array having five black keys and seven white keys in a specified order, said device comprising:

[a] an elongate marking device in the form of a [three] multi-scale [bar] ruler [consisting of] having opposed left and right ends and comprising three sets of five dark and seven light rectangular shapes matching in width and order the black and white keys respectively of [a piano when placed behind these, with an] the keyboard, octave symbol markers on the [extreme] left and [an octave symbol marker on the extreme] right ends respectively of the marking device, the marking device being configured for placement in proximity to the keys of the keyboard such that the dark and light shapes of the marking device align respectively with the black and white keys of the keyboard; and

a' cont.

a display bearing a musical notation system [based on] comprising a plurality of discrete indicia [consisting] each of the indicia comprising one horizontal scale bar[,] having five dark rectangular shapes and seven light rectangular shapes disposed in the order of the rectangular shapes on the marking device, elongate vertically aligned dark and light [rectangular] key shapes extending down from [some] selected ones of the rectangular shapes of the scale bar [and meant to] in each of the indicia, said elongate key shapes in each of said indicia representing [actual piano] keys of the musical keyboard to be played as marked by the marking device, said indicia further comprising duration symbols aligned with said elongate key shapes and indicating a beat duration for each key identified by said respective elongate key shapes, and order identifying indicia for indicating any required

order of playing keys identified in each of said indicia.--

--2. (amended) The [system] musical keyboard instruction device of claim 1, wherein the indicia include [numerals positioned above the scale bar which includes] an octave symbol marker in proximity to each of said indicia for identifying a selected octave on the keyboard [, and vertically lined up with the rectangular shapes representing piano keys, said numerals indicating the number of beats each note gets, a path consisting of starting symbols, line segments, and ending symbols connecting the numerals in an order defined by placing a starting symbol above each starting note numeral, a line segment linking a starting note numeral with an intermediate note numeral, and an ending symbol above an ending note numeral, said path thus indicating the order in which the piano keys are pressed, said indicia representing a musical event involving one or more notes].--

cont.
--3. (amended) [An electro-optical] The musical keyboard instruction device [for music written in the music notation system] of claim 2 [comprising], wherein:

[a top plate showing] the display shows side by side, two of said scale bars corresponding to left and right hands respectively; and [under each said scale bar representing piano keys, each said light and dark rectangular shape having a duration symbol placed above it];

the display further comprises an electrical system including [an array of electrical switches which when activated in concert with an electrical power source, a wiring harness and electrical bulbs, illuminate their corresponding top plate diagram

elements ie: rectangular] illumination means disposed respectively in the key shapes[,] and in the duration symbols[, left and right octave symbol markers, in the order and for the duration that matches the desired musical event, thus generating on the top plate an image of left and right hand indicia of claim 2] for selective illumination, and a control unit connected to the respective illumination means for selectively illuminating the illumination means to indicate keys to be played and durations for playing keys.--

--4. (amended) The musical keyboard instruction device of claim 3 [in which the sequence of indicia is driven by] further comprising a memory unit device connected to the control unit [which processes encoded data representing musical piano events and is stored in a memory unit device] for storing information to control sequences of the illumination means to be illuminated.--

--5. (amended) The musical keyboard instruction device of claim 4 in which the [electrical bulbs and top plate are replaced by a] illumination means comprise at least one liquid [cristal] crystal display [driven by a display] and wherein the memory unit [which stores the indicia shapes as digitally encoded data, and where the control unit processes encoded data stored in] device is a CD rom device.--

--6. (amended) The musical keyboard instruction device of claim 3 in which the [electrical bulbs and top plate are replaced by the] illumination means comprise a computer monitor [of] and wherein the control unit and memory unit device comprise a computer system running a musical keyboard instruction software

which allows [the] a user to select and load a data file from a removable [medium] memory device[, then execute the instructions stored in said data file to sequentially display on the monitor the indicia of claim 2 representing musical piano events encoded in said data file].--

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~~--7.~~ (amended) A method of teaching piano music comprising [a music sheet comprising] the steps of sequentially presenting a student with sets of indicia [thereon], the set of indicia presented in each said step being different from the set of indicia in a preceding step, the steps corresponding to particular musical sequences of notes, said indicia presented in each said step comprising a horizontally aligned scale bar having a pattern of light and dark shapes corresponding respectively to white and black keys of a piano, each said set of said indicia further comprising two distinct and separate parts in proximity to said scale bar, one of said parts comprising at least one elongate key shape depending from at least one of said light and dark shapes of said scale bar for indicating [the] precise [location of the] piano keys to be struck, the other of said parts including numbers and arrows for indicating [the] an order and [the] duration of [the] notes [involved] to be struck, said two distinct and separate parts differing from one said step to another.--

--8. (amended) A method as described in claim 7, wherein each said [music sheet] set of indicia is [replaced by] presented sequentially on an electro-optical display device.--

Cancel claims 9-16.

Add new claim 17 as follows:

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--⁹~~17~~. A method as in claim 7, comprising as a first step positioning a multi-scale ruler in proximity to keys of a piano, said ruler having sets of light and dark shapes aligned respectively with white and black keys of the piano and corresponding to the light and dark shapes in each said set of indicia.--

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 17 remain in the application. Each of claims 1-8 have been amended to more distinctly define and particularly point out the invention. Additionally, the amendments to independent claims 1 and 7 have incorporated the specific limitations that were intended to be defined by the term "pianopics" as presented in the cancelled claims 9-16. New claim 17 has been added.

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's detailed comments that have helped the undersigned applicant to address the many formal objections without the costs that would be associated with retaining an attorney for writing and prosecuting the application. Each of claims 1-8 have been carefully reviewed and amended in view of the Examiner's helpful comments. It is believed that the amended claims overcome each of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 as noted in the Official Action.

Original claim 1-6 were not rejected in view of prior art. However, the Examiner's comments elsewhere in the Official Action indicate that Miller was considered to be the most relevant